



**MANASHNI SPONSORED BY**

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**OFFICE 713-963-4229**

**MANASHNI WISHES ALL THE READERS  
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**PLACE:** ZHCC,  
8787 W. Airport Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77071  
Tel: 713-270-9339

**TIME:** Different timings for each group

**DATE:** January 10, 2021

**Children's Session:** The Sunday School session starts at **11.00 a.m. Join in by Zoom**

**Middle Group:** The Sunday School session at **10.30 a.m. by Zoom**



**Youth Group:**



**UPCOMING EVENT – Virtual Jashn-e-Sadeh. January 30, 2021**  
**See attached flyer**

**MANASHNI**

By: Arnavaz Sethna  
On behalf of **Publication Committee**

The first month of 2021, *MANASHNI* starts with Volume 35. Here are my reflections of our newsletter.

More than 35 years ago, at one of the Executive Committee Meeting (then known as the Working Committee) an idea of having a ZAH Newsletter was discussed. After discussion it was decided that the Newsletter be called *MANASHNI* and the secretarial company, Godrich, owned by Maneck Chichgar, be tasked to publish a bi-monthly newsletter. The last known Manashni from Godrich is Vol 2 No. 2 Oct 1985 and the back cover reads

“MANASHNEE” is written & edited by Maneck G. Chichgar &  
Published bi-monthly  
@ GODRICH EXECUTIVE & SECRETARIAL SERVICES  
9643 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77074  
For ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON

The October 1985 Manashnee recorded a talk by Dr. Oxtoby, Professor of Religious Studies at University of Toronto, ZAH events of picnics, a table tennis tournament, announcement of Silver Wedding Anniversary, Navjote; Navroze event at which the City of Houston gave a proclamation making August 25, 1985 a Zoroastrian Day. Other reports contained Khojeste Mistree’s talk at Rice University, Dr. Dasturji Kotwal’s talk, names of High School & Under grads and a birth announcement.

About a year and a half later Maneck Chichgar left for Los Angeles, CA and Arnavaz Sethna volunteered to continue with the newsletter, changing the spelling to *MANASHNI* and made it a monthly newsletter.

## ZAH EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Dungor, Nozer – Chairman  
Gandhi, Kamalrukh  
Hormuzdi, Khursheed  
Katrak, Percy  
Khumbatta, Kershaw  
Dastur, Khursheed – Secretary  
Billimoria, Farokh – Treasurer

## OUR ERVADS (PRIESTS)

Boomla, Noozar  
Buchia, Kyrus  
Dastur, Barjor  
Dastur, Darius  
Desai, Adi  
Desai, Farrokh  
Firozgary, Bahrom  
Gonda, Pervez  
Kanga, Neville  
Katrak, Rayomand  
Katrak, Vispi  
Khumbatta, Noshir  
Kotwal, Zubin  
Masani, Dara  
Nariman, Khushrav  
Pavri, Shapur  
Sanjana, Bahmanshah  
Sanjana, Kurush  
Sidhwa, Kayomarz  
Sidhwa, Maneck  
Sidhwa, Yazad  
Unwalla, Peshotan  
Vimadalal, Freyaan  
Vimadalal, Khurshroo

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Aban & Yasmin  
Working on Dhalla Papers



With the closing down of GODRICH EXECUTIVE & SECRETARIAL SERVICES, a new phase of Manashni began.

Our record of Manashni starts from August 9, 1987.

A two-column August 9, 1987 *MANASHNI* started the trend with announcing the Sunday School date, time and topic of the session followed by reporting of “Past Event” and announcing future events, all in one page.

Community members, we have come a long way in these past 35 + years. From a mailing list of just about 60 to now over 400. There was a time when members used to ask to be put on the mailing list. Now in the digital world *MANASHNI* is online and can be accessed all over the world.

From a two-column one pager to digital multi-pager, from print to online, from text to visuals, *MANASHNI has evolved with the times*. But, one thing that has remained a constant is that this community newsletter has been and continues to be a trusted source of reference for past news, present news and events; and where warranted, captured a one in a life time events in its *special editions*.

Thank you to our vibrant community for keeping *MANASHNI* alive and thriving through the decades by contributing the community news and special articles, by reading and providing feedback and helping us keep the newsletter relevant and interesting for you.

## REPORT

### LIBRARY REOPORT

By Aban Rustomji

The New Year invites us to reflect on planning the busy year ahead. In the past several years, it has been a pleasure to see the library grow, gain recognition, and meet the moment. It shows us how much we can accomplish when we come together for a common purpose.

Each month a delightful surprise awaits us. We recently found a book in the library that was mailed from Canada. The book had a note that read:

“I discovered your association only recently. And since I know a very nice book about your prophet, Zoroaster, I would like to offer it to you. I read it (in French), and I liked it so much that I thought that you would be very happy to read it...and that you would be very interested to read it”. It was signed “Michel,” with no last name but an email address. Zubeen Mehta acknowledged his gift not knowing if a simple email address would be the way to get in touch with him. It worked and his reply was, “I am so happy to learn that the book I sent you will be or is already available for the seekers of the Truth in your library. This is my wish to you and also to all of you for 2021!!! If one day I go to Houston, I will go see you for sure !!!”

Together with you, our readers known and unknown, we look forward to a creative and fulfilling year.

**COOKIE DECORATION**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Cyrene & Zenia Nariman**  
**Youngest Kids' Group**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Darius Aga**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Middle group**  
**Raamin Sanjana**



**More pictures of the Party on the last page**

**YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

By: Natasha Kanga

**Gatha Article:**

Many members from the youth group and the middle group came together in November to write an article about the Gathas for the FEZANA Journal. The FEZANA editorial committee requested Vehishta Aunty to write an article on the Gathas. In order to encourage the spiritual education of the youth, she involved the youth to participate in compiling this project with great success.

**This article will be published in the Spring issue of the FEZANA journal.**

**Christmas Party:**

The Youth group held a Christmas party on December 13 through Zoom. During the party we first played four rounds of bingo, then we wrote online cards for veterans through Veterans United, then had a cookie decorating contest, and finally we had movie trivia related to Christmas. Farzad Sunavala and Nerius Mehta, our youth group mentors, judged the cookie contest.

<b>Winners for Bingo</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Game</b>	
	Jaldi 7	Delna Surveyor
	Full house	Delna Surveyor Ariana Anklesaria
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Game</b>	
	Middle Line	Delna Surveyor
	1st full house	Delna Surveyor
	2nd full house	Darien Vimadalal

<b>Winners of Movie Trivia</b>	Delna Surveyor
	Darius Aga
	Darius Dastur
	Ariana Anklesaria

<b>Winners of Cookie Decorating Contest</b>	<b>Little Group</b>	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Cyrene and Zenia Nariman
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Darius Aga
	<b>Middle Group</b>	
	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Raamin Sanjana
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Darius Dastur
	<b>Youth Group</b>	
	Winner	Mahtab Dastur

All the kids had a lot of fun and the party was a huge success. Thank you to Yasmin Medhora, Khursheed Dastur and Arzin Italia for organizing this party and for donating the gift cards to the winners.

## Atash Kadeh – Afarganyu



**Pervez Gonada during Maachi**



Atash Kadeh Prayers Zoom Link  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4192191997?  
pwd=JASHAN](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4192191997?pwd=JASHAN)  
Zoom meeting ID: 4192191997  
Password: JASHAN

Contact Persis Behramsha 713-294-7747 for any Machis, Jashans, Volunteering requests or any questions. All Atash Kadeh Committee members are always happy to help.

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**Prayers are also led by Peshotan Unwalla, every weekend on Zoom**

Prayer Session link:  
[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72166471218  
?pwd=dWhFam  
ZZVmloQnVnZUZrY2ILOG1Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72166471218?pwd=dWhFamZZVmloQnVnZUZrY2ILOG1Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 721 6647 1218  
Password: NIRANG  
(Password is case sensitive)

## Atash Kadeh News

By: Persis Behramsha

As we come to witness the confusing, bewildering, annoying, and frustrating end of the year 2020, we are very thankful for our families and friends who have been our rocks, guardians and supporters. This year has certainly reminded us that life is precious and can change in an instant, that we should always take the opportunity to lend a hand to those in need, and never to take things for granted.

The presence of our Atash Kadeh has been a source of immense support to many in our community. We know how much this means to all those that call in to request Machis, Tandarostis and Jashans, and yearn just to visit.

The Atash Kadeh Committee thanks everyone for their thoughtfulness in taking precaution when they visit and for abiding by the rules to keep everyone safe. Due to the high increase in the number of cases again, in December, the Atash Kadeh Committee took steps to discourage any gatherings at the Atash Kadeh. As an extra precaution, the entire Atash Kadeh was professionally sanitized. Thank you everyone for respecting this action by the Committee and understanding that this was only for everyone's safety and good health.

The December Behram Roj Jashan was sponsored by Nilufer & Phiroz Darukhanavala and family. We value your patronage and are thankful for your support.

We received news that our dear friend Mobed Soli Dastur of Florida was taken ill. We pray he recovers very soon so we can have him as Guest during our Weekend Hum Bandagi prayers. We plan on having more guest Mobeds to increase our knowledge and interest.

We thank our young Mobed Viraf Nariman for taking the time to perform the Boye ceremony on one of the weekends while visiting Houston. Always wonderful to see our young Mobeds participating, and always thankful to our Mobeds Maneck Sidhwa and Pervez Gonda.

Kaya Rostomian of Ann Arbor Michigan, Ariana Pavri of Pennsylvania and Natash Dungor of Houston, did a fantastic job with the translation recitations. We welcome you back any time, along with any other youth that would like to join in.

All community Prayers are Live Streamed including the weekend Boyes at 5:00 p.m. CST, on Saturday and Sunday to allow everyone to join in remotely. We had a special Boye on New Year – Friday, January 1 2021 at 11 a.m.

Please contact Persis Behramsha at 713-294-7747 for any Machis, Jashans, Volunteering requests, or any questions. All Atash Kadeh Committee members are always happy to help.

The Atash Kadeh Committee

Tenaz Sunavala



**TENAZ SUNAVALA**

Tenaz Sunavala is to participate in the 65th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Conference to be held in March 2021 hosted by the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.

Joining FEZANA's team of six members, a group of diverse individuals from the USA, Canada, and England, Tenaz will participate and present in the upcoming UN Conference on Commission on Status of Women CSW65. Due to COVID-19 this virtual conference is to be held in March 2021 hosted by the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA.

This year's theme is Amplifying Women's Voices - Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development with a focus on women's full and effective participation in public life, the elimination of violence, and the path towards gender equality. Tenaz's presentation theme is 'To explore how gender equality, mental health/wellbeing, and empowering women with the proper tools can play a role in achieving UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs)' This event is set for March 19th 2021 9 AM EST, 8 AM CST. A link will be sent closer to the time of the event.

Additionally, Tenaz's book The Path to Self Empowerment- Meditations with Grandma, is set to be released at the same time, and will be introduced at the Conference. Her book showcases a story of how to balance our physical and spiritual realities and empowering oneself from within is the key to leading a life of contentment. Way to go, Tenaz!

We await the release of the book and your report from the UN conference.

Aerial View of UN HQ NY City



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**The Power of Prayer**  
**By Cyrus Desai – Age 12, 6<sup>th</sup> Grader**

Cyrus Desai



There once was a boy who lived on a large wooden ship in the middle of the sea. He lived with his grandma and a few other families, far away from other civilization.

In the middle of the ship there was a glass and quartz room where a fire burned every day. The people on the ship would go to the room to pray. The first Sunday of every month the people on the ship would attend Sunday school where they would learn more about their religion.

One day a loose spark caught the ship on fire and burned a big hole into the ship's hull where water started trickling in.

The people on board did not know what was happening until the water started gushing and slowly the ship began to sink.

Everyone started to panic. Suddenly the boy remembered a story his Sunday School teacher told him: "Once there was a man in the army who was guiding a big navy ship. Suddenly the ship started sinking but the man began praying and the ship didn't sink as fast and people came to rescue all of the people on the ship".

## Rescue at Sinking Ship



## FEZANA



The boy remembered this story and started praying loudly. Everyone was wondering what he was doing but he kept praying and praying.

The ship continued to sink and just when they thought the prayers were not working, suddenly another ship sailed by.

The people on board the sinking ship all started shouting for help. The people on the other ship saw them and rescued them from the sinking ship.

The boy, his family, and all the other people aboard the ship were saved.

They all lived a long and happy life.

## OBITUARY:

**Godrej (Goshi) Randeria**, passed away at the hospital 2:16 a.m. on December 31, 2020 and the funeral was held on January 11, 2021. Due to Covid pandemic, arrangements were made for the service to be live streamed via Zoom.

*MANASHNI* and its readers send their heartfelt condolences to THE Randeria family.

## AVA PROJECT

The FEZANA UN-NGO Committee is looking for participants to join our team for implementing The Ava Project.

The Ava Project will bring together a group of people from across the World to form a working group that exchanges ideas pertaining to the environment. The first project is related to the creation of Water and an activity associated with water, i.e. cleaning up of the waters.

For more information or to sign up for the project, please fill in this form: <https://forms.gle/tKWYTqzEoHS5Knb9>

Individuals who sign up will be contacted for future discussions and meetings.

Regards,

Miss Afreed Mistry  
Mr. Behram Pastakia  
Co-Chairs, FEZANA UN-NGO Commit

## Zarathushti Heritage & Cultural Center



Atash Kadeh



## CARES



## Membership Dues - 2021

As a community we are blessed by Ahura Mazda to have a Center that includes a Prayer Room, and we have an Atash Kadeh where we have a 24 hour fire burning. It is the duty of each one of us to preserve our Zarathushti heritage by keeping both, the Center and the Atash Kadeh well maintained. Without your support through membership dues or individual donations, the Center and Atash Kadeh cannot function.

All current memberships expired December 31, 2020. Please recognize the need for your support and contribution and pay your membership dues for the year 2021 by January 31, 2021.

Here is the link for online payment <http://zah.org/renew-membership/> If, however, you wish to pay by check, please make checks payable to ZAH and mail to:

ZAH  
8787 W. Airport Blvd.  
Attn: Treasurer  
Houston, TX 77071

ZAH Executive Committee

## ZAH CARES

As we move into 2021, we try to build a defense mechanism to stave off last year's disasters and hope with a deep breath that they do not choose to overlap into this year too!

One can sit down defeated or look positively to a life without more surprises. This dreadful pandemic was an act of God that shocked us all. Looking around us at the loss of life, income, jobs and so much more, how can one not remain apprehensive?

However, we can console ourselves with a prayer that it could have been a lot worse. Just for a moment think about the ones who suffered and just imagine their pain. Did we too not think 'What would I do if it were to hit close to home?'

During the last nine months, our committee was actively contacting individuals who were single, the elderly, the ones who needed assistance and with those who appealed. We delivered cooked food, put groceries on their doorsteps, visited some and gave rides to some. Yes, it was delightful to see the CARES team in action. Each one would self-volunteer, spend the money and deliver with Zarathushti warmth.

Let us end with some words of wisdom. Life is full of uncertainties but through it all we see a ray of sunshine which tend to bring out the best in folks around us and amongst them are so many whom, like our neighbors and our extended communities we may not even have known before Covid.

**That too, dear friends, is an act of God!**

# Virtual Jashne Sadeh

Saturday January 30, 2021

**AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ALL ITEMS FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE STREAMED VIA ZOOM**

**PLEASE AVOID COMING TO THE ZAH CENTER OR ATASH KADEH AS THIS IS A FULLY ONLINE EVENT**

**ZOOM Link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4192191997?pwd=JASHAN>**

**Zoom meeting ID: 4192191997**

**Password: JASHAN**

## **EVENT TIME LINE FOR THE EVENING!!**

**5:00 p.m.: Boye Ceremony followed by Atash Niyaisht Prayers**

**5:40 p.m.: Sunday School kids to speak about Jashne Sadeh**

**5:50 p.m.: Bonfire and Traditional Persian Songs!!**

**6:15 p.m.: Play Bingo with Prizes!!**

**7:00 p.m.: Fun Virtual Game with Prizes!!**

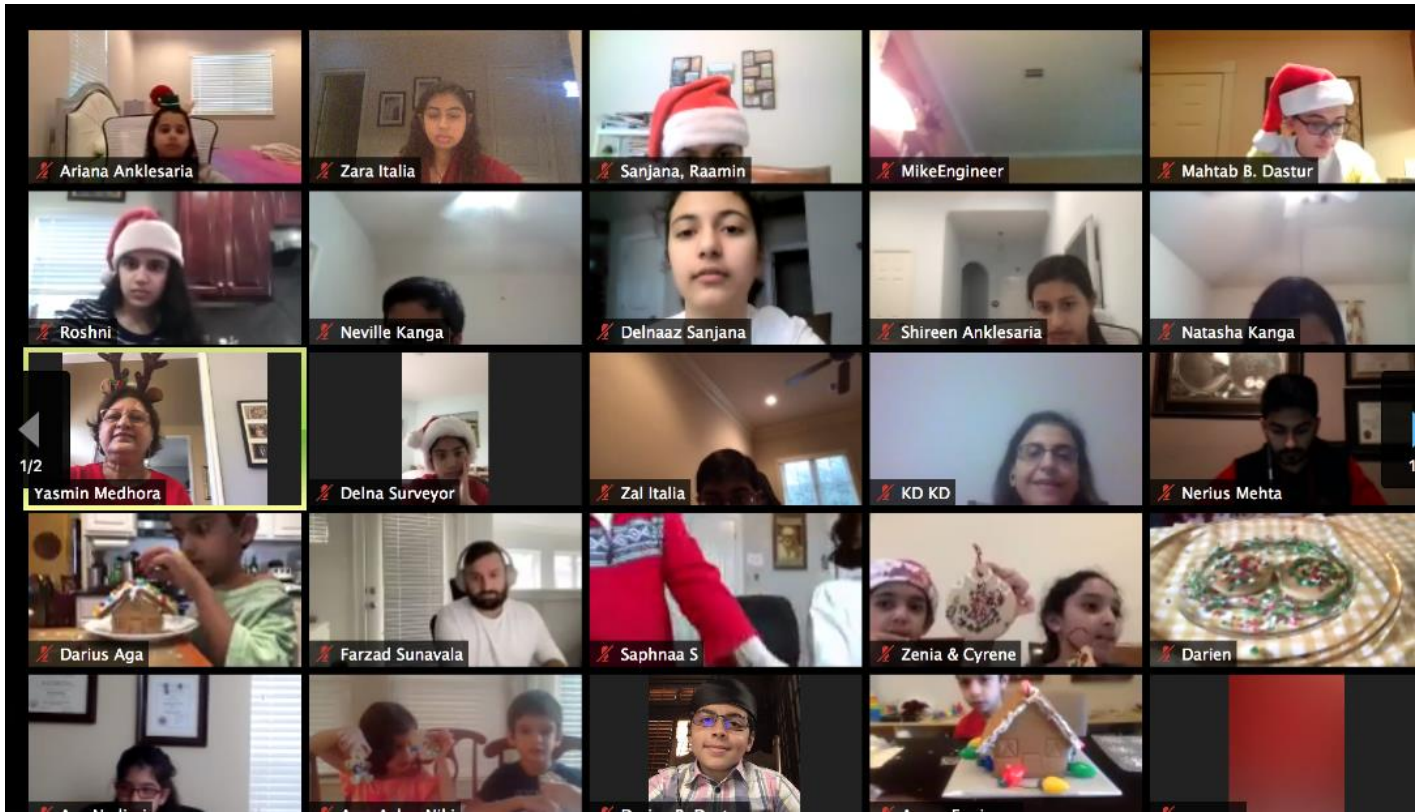
**ZAH Entertainment Committee Contact:  
Benafsheh Mondegarian  
[bmondegarian@yahoo.com](mailto:bmondegarian@yahoo.com)**

**Organized By: [ZAH Entertainment Committee](#)**



# Christmas Party Attendees







**COOKIE DECORATIONS**

